

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An article for connecting a fluid conduit and a
2 fluid container, the article comprising:
3 a receptacle configured to receive the fluid conduit,
4 the receptacle including a base defining an opening for
5 providing communication between the container and the fluid
6 conduit and a sealing surface at least partially surrounded
7 by a wall extending from the base, the wall configured to
8 extend about the fluid conduit.

1 2. The article of claim 1, wherein the opening of
2 the base is capable of fluid communication with the fluid
3 conduit, the sealing surface providing a seal to inhibit
4 leakage as fluid moves along a fluid passageway defined, at
5 least in part, by the opening of the base and the fluid
6 conduit.

1 3. The article of claim 1, wherein the receptacle
2 comprises a thermoplastic material.

1 4. The article of claim 3, wherein the receptacle
2 comprises a material selected from the group consisting of
3 polypropylene, polyethylene, polyvinylidene fluoride and
4 polytetrafluoroethylene.

1 5. The article of claim 1, wherein the receptacle
2 comprises stainless steel.

1 6. The article of claim 1, wherein the wall defines
2 a passageway extending from an outer surface of the wall to
3 an inner surface of the wall.

1 7. The article of claim 1, wherein the receptacle is
2 suitable for use as part of a sanitary plumbing connection.

1 8. An article for connecting a fluid conduit and a
2 fluid container, the article comprising:
3 a collar defining an opening therethrough, the opening
4 configured to receive the fluid conduit; and
5 a receptacle configured to receive the fluid conduit,
6 the receptacle including a base defining an opening for
7 providing communication between the container and the fluid
8 conduit and a sealing surface at least partially surrounded
9 by a wall extending from the base, the wall configured to
10 extend about the fluid conduit.

1 9. The article of claim 8 further comprising a
2 sealing member seated adjacent the sealing surface.

1 10. The article of claim 9, wherein the sealing
2 member is a gasket.

1 11. The article of claim 9, wherein the sealing
2 surface defines a groove configured to mate with a rib
3 defined by a surface of the sealing member.

1 12. The article of claim 8, wherein the receptacle is
2 configured to receive the collar and the fluid conduit, and
3 the wall configured to extend about the collar.

1 13. The article of claim 12 further comprising a
2 fastener configured to secure the collar to the receptacle.

1 14. The assembly of claim 13, wherein the fastener is
2 defined by a threaded outer surface of the collar and a
3 mating threaded inner surface of the wall.

1 15. The assembly of claim 13, wherein the fastener is
2 a clamp.

1 16. The assembly of claim 8, wherein the collar and
2 the receptacle each include a flange extending outwardly
3 from an associated outer surface.

1 17. The assembly of claim 16 further comprising a
2 clamp for providing a force at a surface of the flanges
3 capable of securing the collar and receptacle.

1 18. The assembly of claim 8 further comprising a
2 fluid conduit extending through the opening of the collar.

1 19. The assembly of claim 18, wherein the fluid
2 conduit includes a flange extending from an outer surface
3 at an end of the fluid conduit.

1 20. The assembly of claim 19, wherein the flange of
2 the fluid conduit is positioned between the collar and
3 sealing surface.

1 21. The assembly of claim 20, wherein the collar
2 includes a seating surface configured to seat against a
3 surface of the flange of the fluid conduit.

1 22. The assembly of claim 18, wherein an end of the
2 fluid conduit defines a second sealing surface.

1 23. The assembly of claim 22 further comprising a
2 sealing member positioned between the sealing surfaces of
3 the base and the fluid conduit.

1 24. A container comprising:
2 an article disposed on the container, the article
3 comprising
4 a receptacle configured to receive a fluid conduit,
5 the receptacle including a base defining an opening for
6 providing fluid communication between the container and the
7 fluid conduit and a sealing surface at least partially
8 surrounded by a wall extending from the base, the wall
9 configured to extend about the fluid conduit.

1 25. The container of claim 24, wherein the base
2 defines an outer surface, opposite the sealing surface that
3 is affixed to the container.

1 26. The container of claim 25, wherein the outer
2 surface of the base is affixed by welding.

1 27. The container of claim 26 wherein the outer
2 surface of the base is welded to a surface of the container
3 about at least one of an inner diameter of the opening of
4 the base and an outer diameter of the periphery of the
5 base.

1 28. The container of claim 27, wherein the outer
2 surface of the base is welded to the surface of the
3 container about both the inner diameter of the opening of

4 the base and the outer diameter of the periphery of the
5 base.

1 29. The container of claim 24 wherein the connector
2 assembly further comprises a collar defining an opening
3 therethrough, the opening configured to receive the fluid
4 conduit.

1 30. The container of claim 29, wherein the receptacle
2 is configured to receive the collar and the fluid conduit,
3 the wall configured to extend about the collar.

1 31. The container of claim 30 further comprising a
2 fastener configured to secure the collar to the receptacle.

1 32. The container of claim 31, wherein the fastener
2 is defined by a threaded outer surface of the collar and a
3 mating threaded inner surface of the wall.

1 33. The container of claim 31, wherein the fastener
2 is a clamp.

1 34. The container of claim 29, wherein the collar and
2 the receptacle each include a flange extending outwardly
3 from an associated outer surface.

1 35. The container of claim 34 further comprising a
2 clamp for providing a force at a surface of the flanges
3 capable of securing the collar and receptacle.

1 36. The container of claim 29 further comprising a
2 fluid conduit extending through the opening of the collar.

1 37. A method of assembling a fitting assembly,
2 the method comprising:
3 positioning a collar about a fluid conduit, the collar
4 defining an opening configured to receive the fluid
5 conduit;
6 securing the collar and the fluid conduit within a
7 receptacle configured to receive the collar and the fluid
8 conduit, the receptacle including a base and a sealing
9 surface at least partially surrounded by a wall extending
10 from the base, the wall configured to extend about the
11 collar, the base defining an opening; and
12 sealing a passageway defined by the opening of the
13 base and the fluid conduit.

1 38. The method of claim 37, wherein securing the
2 collar and the fluid conduit within the receptacle includes
3 fastening the collar to the receptacle.

1 39. The method of claim 38, wherein the collar is
2 secured to the receptacle by a clamp.

1 40. The method of claim 38, wherein the collar is
2 secured to the receptacle by mating threaded surfaces.

1 41. The method of claim 40, wherein the threaded
2 surfaces are defined by an outer surface of the collar and
3 an inner surface of the wall of the receptacle.

1 42. The method of claim 37 comprising seating the
2 collar against a flanged surface of the fluid conduit.

1 43. The method of claim 37 comprising seating an end
2 surface of the fluid conduit within the receptacle.